

Library

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural District Councils)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

for the year

1959

West Gloucestershire United District

(EAST DEAN, LYDNEY, NEWENT AND WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICTS)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1959

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils
of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1959. I have prepared this in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and have incorporated, as usual, the reports of other officers.

I have restricted it to the public health matters that are a concern of the District Councils and have not attempted to make it a health services guide.

I have refrained from calculating such rates as the infant mortality rate and the still birth rate, as rates based on small figures are misleading.

The health of the District is similar to that of any part of any Southern County of England at this time.

This is an era of the conquest of bacterial infections including the retreat of tuberculosis; an age in which the maternal and infant mortalities have been brought to very low levels. A higher proportion of persons born approach old age but the age at which they then die has not been much advanced. More people thus reach an age when cancer is more likely to arise, but better and more prompt treatment is effective in a large proportion of cases. Some cancers such as those of the tongue, gullet and stomach are tending to decrease; that of cancer of the bronchus and lung continues to increase seriously, its relationship to smoking, especially cigarette smoking, being one of cause and effect.

Deaths from coronary disease continue to increase and this appears to be related to a higher standard of nutrition.

A large supply of poliomyelitis vaccine enabled the vaccination of children and young people to be done on a large scale: a modern crusade which appears to have already had an effect.

There is still no satisfactory prevention against certain virus diseases; influenza, for instance, spreads with great rapidity.

The progressive improvement in housing, water supply and sewerage, improves the health of the people. The many duties done by the public health inspectors are effective safeguards.

I have separated the items as much as possible into the sections relating to the different districts. In the case of causes of death it has been convenient to make one table and to analyse the cancer deaths in a separate table.

I should like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Councils for their co-operation and understanding. I have to thank the Public Health Inspectors for their loyal support and the other officers of the Councils for their co-operation. I thank the Inspectors, Surveyors, Clerks to the Councils and other officers for their assistance in preparing this Report, to the printers for their care and to Miss E. M. Hughes, my clerk.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

GENERAL ITEMS

Birth and Death Rates Compared

			Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales	..	..	16.5	11.6
Gloucestershire	..	..	17.25	10.7
Combined Forest Area	..		16.2 (17.3)	10.8 (11.4)
East Dean	..	..	16.0 (17.3)	10.8 (11.7)
Lydney R.D.	..	..	14.95 (16.6)	10.6 (11.9)
Newent R.D.	..	..	17.9 (20.6)	10.5 (9.9)
West Dean	..	..	15.4 (16.2)	11.0 (11.3)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the "corrected" rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There were two deaths associated with childbirth.

There were 23 deaths during the first year of life (14 male and 9 female), 19 of these being during the first four weeks and of these, 18 being during the first week. There were 965 births. There were 644 deaths.

Chief Causes of Death

					Percentage of total deaths
Coronary disease and angina	..	..	..		14.1
Other heart disease	..	..	..		18.3
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..		4.2
Vascular diseases of the nervous system	..	..			15.1
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	..	..			17.4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3.6
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	5.1
Pneumoconiosis (14 deaths)	..	..	..	..	2.2
Accidents	..	..	..	..	2.95

These percentages tally closely with those of the country as a whole, except that the pneumoconiosis deaths are naturally rather more.

Homeless Families

The Circular of the 10th March, of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Ministry of Health was most timely. This emphasised the need to keep the family together, the need for intermediate accommodation for evicted families, the importance of rehabilitation and of co-operation between Welfare and Housing Authorities.

In consequence of this Circular, the County Welfare Committee proposed to employ Social Workers and to assist Housing Authorities with rent; the latter to be asked to provide intermediate accommodation.

I am sure the District Councils will do everything possible to co-operate to prevent the distress that arises when families are evicted, whether it is from the parents' improvidence or under circumstances that they could not avoid.

Berkeley Nuclear Power Station

Since the end of 1957 I have asked to be kept informed of the position with regard to possible hazards from this new project just over the River Severn from Lydney. The Central Electricity Board decided to set up a Local Liaison Committee and a meeting was held at the Station on the 6th January, 1959 to discuss the membership. It was decided that the District Councils of the Forest Area were not to be directly represented. It is difficult to see how such a Local Liaison Committee could be so called without such direct representation, seeing that the whole of the town of Lydney is within 3 miles of the Station, Cinderford is the largest town within a 10 mile radius and there are 40,750 people within this 10 mile radius within the Forest Area—more than there are within the Central District Councils' Area. Subsequently, the Generating Board agreed to each of the East Dean, West Dean and Lydney Rural District Councils having a representative, and for myself, also, to be a member.

Analysts

The Inspectors of the East Dean, Lydney and West Dean Rural District Councils normally take samples for bacteriological examination to the Newport Public Health Laboratory, which has given excellent service for a number of years.

Chemical samples are sent to the University of Bristol Laboratory from the four Rural District Councils. The samples for bacteriological examination from the Newent Rural District are sent to the Laboratory at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary.

Swimming Pools

As requested by the Ministry's Circular, I have reported on the public swimming pools in the Lydney Rural District. Those in the West Dean Area are on School premises. There are no public swimming pools in East Dean Rural District nor in the Newent Rural District.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47. National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951.

The West Dean Rural District Council resolved to apply to Court for an Order to remove one old man living in very insanitary conditions and unable to look after himself. This person, however, accepted Welfare Accommodation before the case was due to be heard. The Home Help Service assists many persons who would otherwise require institutional care.

Anthrax Order 1938

Three notices in respect of three separate pigs were received under this Order; all were in the East Dean Rural District and all were withdrawn as not cases of this disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria

For the eleventh year in succession there was no case of this disease.

Poliomyelitis

The only case of this disease occurred in the Newent Rural District.

Influenza

There was an epidemic commencing in the middle of February, reaching a peak at the beginning of March and coming to an end towards the end of March. There were 17 deaths mostly in old and debilitated people.

Tuberculosis

25 new cases were notified compared with 49 in 1958 and 5 of these were in the Newent R.D. At the end of the year 502 names were on the registers compared with 501 at the end of the previous year, but this includes 33 in the Newent R.D. There were 6 deaths compared with 13 in 1958.

The decline of this disease is progressive. Health education in regard to its infectious nature has had a little effect in this: many persons who have this disease, however, are refractory to the realization of the danger of infection, as this cannot be seen.

The re-housing of tuberculous cases has had some effect; so has better feeding; but it is the effectiveness of the newer drugs that has been the main cause of the conquest of this disease.

The B.C.G. vaccination of schoolchildren in their early 'teens must now begin to have an appreciable reinforcing effect. This vaccination is done by the School Health Service, and a most

interesting point that arises from the skin testing of children in or about their thirteenth year, is that the percentage found to have been infected has dropped. Thus the proportion of children of this age in the Forest Area found to have been infected, dropped from 22.3% in 1955 to 13.4% in 1959.

Notifications during the Year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean ..	1	6	—	—	7
Lydney ..	3	2	—	—	5
Newent ..	2	3	—	—	5
West Dean ..	7	—	1	—	8
TOTALS ..	13	11	1	—	25


Cases on Registers at the end of the Year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean ..	88	81	11	20	200
Lydney ..	41	30	6	4	81
Newent ..	18	11	—	4	33
West Dean ..	105	50	18	15	188
TOTALS ..	252	172	35	43	502

Cancer Deaths

	East Dean	Lydney R.D.	Newent R.D.	West Dean	Total
MALE					
Stomach ..	4	1	—	2	7
Lung and Bronchus	5	7	3	1	16
Other	13	9	5	10	37
Leukaemia ..	2	—	1	—	3
FEMALE					
Stomach ..	4	—	—	6	10
Lung and Bronchus	—	1	—	—	1
Breast	4	4	—	1	9
Uterus	3	2	1	2	8
Other	6	5	4	6	21
Leukaemia ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	41	29	14	28	112

CAUSES OF DEATH	East Dean		Lydney		Newent		West Dean		Total Area		
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
Other forms of tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other forms of infectious disease ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	24	17	17	12	9	5	13	15	63	49	112
Diabetes ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	3
Vascular disease of the nervous system ..	15	19	9	14	5	3	16	16	45	52	97
Coronary disease and angina ..	22	8	10	5	14	3	25	4	71	20	91
Hypertension with heart disease ..	—	2	—	1	—	2	7	—	7	5	12
Other heart disease ..	20	26	11	6	2	9	13	19	46	60	106
Other circulatory disease ..	3	3	4	2	7	3	3	2	17	10	27
Influenza ..	4	—	2	1	—	—	5	5	11	6	17
Pneumonia ..	3	9	1	3	1	—	2	4	7	16	23
Bronchitis ..	8	1	6	4	5	1	3	5	22	11	33
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	10	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	15	1	16
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	1	4	1	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	3	4
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	4	2	6
Hyperplasia of the prostate ..	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	6	—	6
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
Congenital malformations ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	6	1	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	11	5	4	6	4	9	6	24	25	49
Motor vehicle accidents ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
All other accidents ..	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	10	7	17
Suicide ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	123	103	76	55	58	32	111	86	368	276	644



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30260437>

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mrs. D. J. Brain

Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Brain

Members: Councillors A. M. White, W. Wilkins, R. J. Bevan, H. C. Byett, Mrs. S. J. Christian, E. Cooke, H. Cumberlin, A. J. Dales, J. I. Duberley, H. C. Gibbs, G. B. Keyse, M. V. Lark, H. J. Marfell, Mrs. S. A. Martin, W. H. Meredith, G. S. Miles, W. Morris, P. S. Palmer, Mrs. M. Simpson, T. A. Trigg, M. Tucker, L. J. Tuffley, Mrs. M. M. Virgo, Mrs. A. Weaving and L. S. Wilce.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health
Inspector: A. D. PARSONS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health
Inspector: B. G. RISBEY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator: C. BARNARD

Statistics.

Population=20,920 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1959).

Area=30,475 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=6,503.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1959 was £153,023.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1959 was £615.

Number of Live Births=352. Number of Deaths=226.

Excess of Births over Deaths=126.

Birth Rate=16.0 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.03 this gives a corrected rate of 17.3.

Death Rate=10.8 [deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.08 this gives a corrected rate of 11.7.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	171	162	333	9	10	19	180	172	352
Still Births	7	4	11	—	—	—	7	4	11
Deaths of infants under									
1 week	1	4	5	—	—	—	1	4	5
4 weeks	1	4	5	—	—	—	1	4	5
1 year	2	5	7	—	—	—	2	5	7

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

PARISH	Estimated Population	No. of Dwellings	No. of Caravans	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
				(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Cinderford	7,083	2,199	3	2,184	—
Drybrook ..	2,893	892	7	859	—
Mitcheldean	1,965	604	7	519	2
Ruspidge ..	1,988	602	16	558	15
Awre ..	1,760	546	1	485	—
Littledean ..	1,348	419	—	363	—
Longhope ..	1,107	341	3	122	6
Ruardean ..	1,248	374	14	368	10
Churcham ..	750	231	2	114	—
Huntley ..	492	153	—	102	—
Blaisdon ..	286	87	2	33	—
TOTALS ..	20,920	6,448	55	5,707	33

I have to thank the Rating Officer for the number of dwellings and the Surveyor for the number of water connections except those of the Churcham and Huntley parishes which were supplied by the Gloucester City Water Engineer.

The population estimates are made by apportioning the Registrar General's estimate for the Rural District according to the number of dwellings.

Notification of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases.

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Register)
Cinderford ..	52	47	8	3	72
Drybrook	4	1	6	—	33
Ruspidge	36	6	3	1	23
Awre	5	2	2	—	14
Mitcheldean ..	7	4	1	2	24
Littledean	7	9	—	1	9
Longhope	9	2	—	—	6
Ruardean	—	—	5	—	13
Churcham	—	—	—	—	4
Huntley	15	4	—	—	—
Blaisdon	16	—	—	—	2
MALE	73	39	16	1	99
FEMALE	78	36	9	6	101
TOTAL ..	151	75	25	7	200

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

The cases at Huntley, Blaisdon and Longhope arose in February; the cases at Littledean in March and those at Cinderford and Ruspidge in April and May.

Whooping Cough

62 cases arose in November and December, the few other cases being scattered throughout the year.

Scarlet Fever

Most of the cases occurred during the first two quarters of the year, the third quarter was free of cases and five of the Cinderford cases arose during the last quarter.

Erysipelas

Four cases were notified during the first quarter, two being in the Awre parish, one at Soudley and one at Blaisdon.

Pneumonia

One case was notified and that in April.

Puerperal pyrexia

Four cases were notified.

Dysentery

There were three notifications of cases at Cinderford in September and one at Cinderford and one at Ruspidge in October.

Food Poisoning

There was only one notification, that being a woman of 31, who was taken ill on the 1st September with a *Salmonella typhimurium* infection while on holiday at Sandy Bay, Porthcawl. The source of infection was not traced.

Mumps

The School Returns showed an epidemic at Blaisdon in January, Drybrook from February to April, Cinderford in April, Ruspidge, Littledean and Longhope from May to July and at Awre in December.

Chickenpox

This was epidemic at Ruspidge in September and October and at Ruardean Hill in November.

Scabies

There was an infestation in one family.

Rubella

The School Returns showed seven isolated cases in the first half of the year.

Meningococcal meningitis

There was one case of meningococcal meningitis at Ruspidge in September which was not notified; the diagnosis not having been made until the patient was in hospital. A complete recovery was obtained.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. A. D. Parsons reports as follows:—

Public Health

Work in the Public Health Department continued to increase; 1,400 inspections and visits having been made, being an increase of over 25% on those done in the previous year.

There were 650 general complaints made and dealt with; surveys were concentrated on public houses and butchers shops.

Drainage

There was more work during the year in connection with drainage than in the previous year because of the making of connections to the new sewers at Blakeney and of the provision of drainage to many houses, which has been encouraged by Improvement Grants.

693 advisory visits and inspections were made, 26 septic tanks and drainages were completed and work was in hand on seven more. There were 22 connections to the sewer at Blakeney and 16 connections in other areas.

Surveys were made for sewer extensions at Crossways, Crooked End and Varnister in the Ruardean Parish, at the Hawthorns in the Drybrook Parish and for a further extension to the new trunk sewer at Blakeney. Reports on the need of these new sewers were made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Domestic refuse continued to be collected satisfactorily from the whole of the Rural District; that from the Cinderford and Ruspidge Parishes by the Surveyor's Department and from the rest of the Rural District by private contractors. One of the three contractors retired in April and Awre Parish collection was carried out by one of the remaining contractors, Mr. E. A. Bayliss. The day of this collection was changed to a Monday which, unfortunately, coincides with all Bank holidays.

There were additional collections at Lower Harrow Hill, Drybrook and at Highbeech, The Pludds.

The four refuse tips under my control receive constant attention for broken fencing, cutting of hedges, prevention of fires, nuisances and pests.

Pet Animals Act 1951

One annual licence was renewed to the only pet shop in the district. This was inspected and was found to be satisfactory.

Housing

Action under the Housing Act 1957, Section 16/17.

Representations made	..	..	..	..	..	16
Undertakings accepted: (i) not to use for human habitation	..					1
(ii) to render house fit	..	..	..			2
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	1
Closing Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	7
Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	6

Overcrowding

The particulars in relation to overcrowding which came to the notice of the department were 13 overcrowded dwellings, which housed 18 families of 73 adults and 39 children; three of these dwellings became overcrowded during the year and three families were re-housed from overcrowded dwellings.

Moveable Dwellings

Annual licences for caravans renewed	..	..	28
New annual licences for caravans	..	..	17
Annual site licences renewed	..	..	3
One site licence was for 10 caravans, one for 12 and one for 18.			

Rent Act 1957

Three applications were dealt with for Certificates of Disrepair.

Land Charges Act 1925, as amended by the Law Property (Amendment) Act 1926.

367 Land Searches were passed through the Public Health Department for observation, and a considerable number required identification and inspection of the properties involved.

Rodent and Pest Control

These duties were carried out by the Rodent Operator, Mr. C. Barnard, and for the biannual sewer treatments temporary assistance was employed. The sewers were inspected and treated during January when 98 manholes were tested, 40 being found infested and during October when 101 manholes were tested, 52 being found infested.

Treatments				Rats	Mice
Business premises	..	..	..	10	1
Private	..	..	..	116	11
Farms	..	..	..	4	—
Schools	..	..	..	3	3
Factories	..	..	..	2	1

Altogether 160 farms were inspected and 478 other inspections made. Other treatments were given for cockroaches, ants, fleas and especially flies for which more treatments are given each successive year.

An unusually severe infestation of rats was found at Bilson Refuse Tip which was eventually satisfactorily treated. This was due to the indiscriminate tipping on Crown ground by local tradespeople, the proximity of a brook with several culverts and the large exposed surface of the tip.

A severe infestation of bedbugs in a house in Cinderford necessitated the removal of the occupants, burning of the bedding and four applications of insecticide. The treatment proved successful and the house remained free of infestation.

Water

Altogether 107 water samples were taken during the year, the majority of which were from extensions to the water mains in the Awre and Longhope Parishes.

During routine sampling the mains supply at Blakeney was found to be unsatisfactory and numerous samples were taken from the sources and reservoir, and chlorination increased until satisfactory reports of the samples were received.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	60	45	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	62	45	2	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases.”)

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveni- ences (S.7) ..					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	1	—

Outworkers

One person was employed in the carding of pins.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire Certificates—two amend-
ments were made to existing certificates.

Milk and Dairies

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of registered distributors	..	..	..	25
Number of registered dairies	..	..	..	9

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations 1949—54.

(i) Dealers licences (Pasteurised milk)	..	..	..	13
(ii) Supplementary licences (Pasteurised milk)	..	..	..	4
(iii) Dealers licences (T.T. Pasteurised milk)	..	..	..	11
(iv) Supplementary licences (T.T. Pasteurised milk)	..	..	..	3
(v) Dealers licences (Sterilised milk)	..	..	..	1

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949—54.

(i) Dealers licences (Tuberculin Tested milk)	..	..	6
(ii) Supplementary licences (Tuberculin Tested milk)	..	..	nil

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Ice-Cream

Premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Manufacture (Cold Mix method only was used)	..	..	4
Storage and sale (pre-packed ice cream only)	..	..	86
TOTAL	..	..	90

Sixteen samples of ice cream were taken during the year, all of which were placed in Grade 1.

Foods condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse).

Beef	..	..	..	154 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	60 lbs.
Corned beef	..	..	..	24 tins
Pork	..	..	..	4 „
Cooked gammon	..	..	..	2 „
Luncheon meat	..	..	..	12 „
Minced beef loaf	..	..	..	3 „
Stewed steak	..	..	..	1 „
Lambs tongues	..	..	..	1 „
Ham and Chicken	..	..	..	2 „
Ham and Tongue	..	..	..	2 „
Ham	..	..	..	2 „
Pork roll	..	..	..	2 „
Fish	..	..	..	11 „
Soup	..	..	..	9 „
Vegetables	..	..	..	88 „
Fruit	..	..	..	88 „
Milk	..	..	..	26 „
Cream	..	..	..	2 „
Rice	..	..	..	4 „
Nescafé	..	..	..	1 „

134 tins and cartons and 40 lbs. of confectionery were condemned as a result of a shop fire.

Meat Condemned (at Slaughterhouse).

44 Bovine heads	..	..	1,760 lbs.
10 Pigs heads	..	..	140 „
Bovine and sheep livers	..	..	3,451 „
Lights	..	..	492 „

Slaughter of Animals Act 1958.

Licensed Slaughtermen.

Six annual licences to slaughter animals for food were renewed.

Inspections and Visits.

Public Health	..	..	1,400
Drainage	..	..	693
Water	..	..	310
Housing	..	..	944
Caravans	..	..	409
Shops Act	..	..	65
Food and Drugs	..	..	216
Pests	..	..	115
Refuse	..	..	165
Rent Act	..	..	40
Slaughterhouse	..	..	444
Factories Act	..	..	45
Milk and Dairies	..	..	64
Street Cleansing	..	..	82
Miscellaneous	..	..	68
			—
TOTAL	..	..	5,060
			—

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	1,335	71	129	8,080	2,892	—
Number inspected	1,335	71	129	8,080	2,892	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci						
Whole carcases .. condemned ..	1	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	140	—	—	12	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.0	—	—	.15	1.0	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned ..	—	18	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	17	53	—	—	8	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	1.3	100.0	—	—	0.3	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

It will be noticed that the bovine percentages are higher this year. This is due to T.B. reactors being slaughtered under the Slaughter of Reactors Order 1950.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. J. A. N. Butterworth, A.I.A.S., reports as follows:—

Water Supply Statistics.

The quantity of water pumped from the Greenbottom source during the year ending 31st December, 1959 amounted to 183,509,000 gallons, a decrease of $14\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons compared with the previous year.

Bulk supply taken from West Dean Rural District Council showed an increase of some 26 million gallons compared with 1958 and reached the record figure of 38,316,000 gallons.

The total quantities of water supplied from the 4 main sources during the year amounted to:—

Greenbottom ..	183,509,000 gallons
West Dean R.D.C. ..	38,316,000 gallons
Blakeney	14,533,000 gallons
Gloucester Corporation (Blaisdon) ..	1,990,000 gallons
<hr/>	
TOTAL	238,348,000 gallons
<hr/>	

Total consumption, therefore, was approximately $16\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons or $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ more than in 1958, due mainly to increased consumption during the dry summer months and also to the fact that properties in the Longhope district were provided with mains water during the year.

New Works.

Main laying contracts at Etloe and Gatcombe were completed during the year and the first stage of the Little London Scheme was also handed over in December, 1959. The remainder of the Little London Scheme is expected to be completed within the next month or so, by which time practically the whole of the East Dean District will be served with mains water.

New Connections to Mains.

During 1959 good progress was made in making mains water available to properties in all parts of the district. A total of 175 connections were made during the year including some 30 new dwellings. Of this total some 91 properties at Longhope and 39 in the Awre parish were afforded a supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Improvements to the main works at Soudley were completed during the year, including the roofing of a number of sludge drying beds.

Contractors engaged on the work of enlarging the works at Mitcheldean are practically finished and the works should be handed over in early 1960.

Work involved with removal and disposal of dried sludge continues to increase.

Sewer extensions were satisfactorily carried out at Buckshaft Road and The Causeway, Cinderford and also to serve a small group of properties at Steam Mills.

Schemes have been prepared for further extensions at Ruardean, and subject to the necessary approvals, will be carried out during 1960.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Regular weekly collections have been maintained in Cinderford and Ruspidge and existing arrangements are very satisfactory. It was necessary during the year to fence a further portion of land at Bilson and this area is now being used for refuse disposal.

St. Annals—Cinderford.

A contract was let during the year and contractors have made good progress on the work of alterations and improvements to St. Annals, with the object of providing sufficient accommodation to house the Council's staff in one building.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. L. A. Andrews, D.P.A., the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed:—

PARISH				Council Houses		Total
	1959			Pre-War	Post-War including 1959	
Cinderford	—		80	256	336
Drybrook	—		6	116	122
Ruspidge	—		26	73	99
Awre	—		—	36	36
Mitcheldean	—		6	114	120
Littledean	3		—	66	66
Longhope	—		6	24	30
Ruardean	—		10	57	67
Churcham	—		—	12	12
Huntley	—		—	8	8
Blaisdon	—		—	—	—
TOTAL	3		134	762	896

24 houses and 18 bungalows were commenced during the year of which three bungalows were completed at Littledean, the bungalows being primarily for old persons.

During the year the Council decided to install hot water systems in six Council houses at Longhope. When this is completed there will be only three houses without hot water systems.

Private Houses.

A total of 32 houses and bungalows were built privately during the year, making a total of 364 since 1946.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water Supply

The mains now go to every parish in the District and extensions were made to Little London in the Longhope Parish, and to Etloe and Bledisloe in the Awre Parish. The mains system to the whole of the District is thus gradually being made complete. Churcham and Huntley are in the Gloucester Corporation Statutory Area of Supply, and a supply is obtained from this Authority for Blaisdon village.

87.8% of the properties in the District are now supplied with mains water, and another 0.5% are supplied by standpipes.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies.

East Dean Mains Supply.

17 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from different points on the mains. All were satisfactory except two which showed slight contamination.

Gloucester Corporation Supply.

A sample taken at Blaisdon was bacteriologically satisfactory

Longhope.

19 samples were taken in connection with an extension of the mains to Little London.

Rookery Supply, Mitcheldean.

Two samples taken from this supply were satisfactory.

Southern Area Supply.

A sample taken in February from a tap on this supply was satisfactory; of two taken in May, one was satisfactory and one showed slight contamination and likewise in July, one sample was satisfactory and one showed slight contamination. An extension of the main to Bledisloe was made during the year and before the main was taken over from the contractors, samples were found to be persistently contaminated and it was found that the water supplied by the mains was not satisfactory. Of seven samples taken on the 27th July, from taps on the supply only two were satisfactory. Water from such unprotected sources is bound to require satisfactory chlorination for purification. The hypochlorite used was increased and six samples taken on the 5th August were all satisfactory.

Samples were also taken from the Etloe extension to this main supply.

Sewerage

The Soudley Works continues to be overworked, and if Cinderford with Ruspidge and Drybrook are to enlarge, a new works to take part of the sewage will be required. The Mitcheldean works is being enlarged. Ruardean, Littledean and Blakeney have small works and there are a number of small works serving Council House Estates throughout the District. Huntley and Longhope now need to be sewered.

Housing

Housing problems are very numerous. Many complaints were received from families living in bad conditions, either because of the defective condition of the properties or because of overcrowding or both. The following condemned houses continued to be occupied illegally: 20, Dockham Road, Cinderford and 11 and 12, Church Street, Littledean. Unfortunately, the Council did not re-house the family living at 20, Steam Mills Road, which had been condemned by the Council in July, 1957. The owner obtained an Eviction Order because the house had been condemned, the property being in a very serious state of disrepair and totally unfit for human habitation. The family, being without accommodation, was broken up.

Slum Clearance.

At the end of the year the Council declared the following to be Clearance Areas: Old Boilershop Row (11 houses) and Whitechapel Row (6 houses). I am glad that the Council is now to deal with these very poor blocks of houses.

Crump Meadow Gypsy Encampment.

Several dozen caravans are still occupied on the site; some are in a poor condition. The number of persons living there who could be classed as gypsies is small, most of them being scrap-iron dealers and hop and fruit pickers. The majority of them have cars or motor vans of some sort. The Forestry Commission's Deputy Surveyor and his staff go to a great deal of trouble to control the occupants. However, it is clearly unhygienic for people to live on such a wet site without a safe water supply or sanitation.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

There were a number of animals affected with this disease at the end of November. Copies of the Diseases of Animals Act Notices, which are sent by the Police Superintendent to the owners of animals affected either as cases or as contacts, were sent to me. I was informed where the slaughtered animals would be buried and inspected the sites, which I regarded as satisfactory.

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: H. HARLEY

Vice-Chairman: H. J. WALKER

Members: Councillors T. L. Richards, Mrs. E. Wolridge, J. H. G. Darters, W. F. Essex, E. W. Goss, A. F. G. Hopes, R. Meredith, C. E. Phelps, M. R. Wyman, N. H. Cooke, A. E. Hawkes, C. R. Smith, Mrs. F. V. M. Clutterbuck and Mrs. K. E. James.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector: W. M. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator and
Inspector: R. C. REED, A.R.I.P.H.H., A.R.S.H.

Statistics.

Population=12,310 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1959).

Area=24,597 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=3,679.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1959, was £126,443

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1959, was £531.

Number of Live Births=184. Number of Deaths=131.

Excess of Births over Deaths=53.

Birth Rate=14.95 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.11 this gives a corrected rate of 16.6.

Death Rate=10.6 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.12 this gives a corrected rate of 11.9.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	94	79	173	6	5	11	100	84	184
Still Births	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deaths of infants under 1 week	3	2	5	1	—	1	4	2	6
4 weeks	3	2	5	1	—	1	4	2	6
1 year	3	2	5	1	—	1	4	2	6

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Lydney	5,182	1,650	1,586	—
Tidenham	2,751	876	651	—
St. Briavels	1,181	376	186	—
Woolaston	832	265	190	2
Aylburton	791	252	210†	—
Hewelsfield	424	135	86	—
Alvington	393	125	102	1
TOTALS	11,554*	3,679	3,011	3

*This is 756 less than the Registrar General’s estimate of 12,310 in order to allow for the apprentices at the Beachley Army Apprentices’ School. The figure for the number of dwellings and properties connected to a Mains Water Supply were supplied by Mr. D. S. Bennett, A.R.V.A., the Rating Officer, and the population is the Registrar General’s estimate apportioned according to the number of dwellings.

†This includes 78 dwellings supplied by the Aylburton Village Supply.

Notification of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases.

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Register)
Lydney	100	—	2	1	28
Tidenham	—	—	5	1	23
St. Briavels	33	2	—	1	12
Aylburton	2	—	1	1	4
Woolaston	—	4	1	1	4
Hewelsfield	1	—	—	—	3
Alvington	1	1	—	—	7
MALE	62	3	3	3	47
FEMALE	75	4	6	2	34
TOTAL	137	7	9	5	81

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles.

There was an epidemic at St. Briavels and at Lydney in February continuing into March at Lydney.

Whooping Cough.

There were only seven notified cases. The four cases at Woolaston were in November, and it would appear from the School Returns that there were a number of other cases there then.

Scarlet Fever.

The cases were mild and some indefinite; most were in May and June.

Pneumonia.

There was one case in February.

Erysipelas.

There was one case of erysipelas of the face.

Food Poisoning.

There was one notification but it appeared that this had been a case of dysentery.

Dysentery.

There were two cases at Brockweir in February and two at Tidenham in March, and it appeared that these were cases on the fringe of an epidemic in Monmouthshire.

Mumps.

The School Returns showed an epidemic from September to December at Lydney and a number of cases at Aylburton and at Woolaston in December.

Chickenpox.

The School Returns showed an epidemic at Tidenham in November.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. M. Richards reports as follows:—

Housing

Housing Acts 1936—57.

Individual Unfit Houses considered by the Council.

Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	2
Closing Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	1
Unfit Houses made fit after formal notice				..	..	3
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	2

Clearance Areas.

The houses included in the Post Office Row and Red Lion Court Clearance Orders still remain to be demolished.

Number of Houses dealt with under the Housing Acts

PARISH	Clearance Areas	Number of houses in these Areas	Individual Unfit Houses	Parts of Dwellings Closed	Total Number	Number Demolished	Number Repaired	Number Vacant	Number in use other than for human habitation
Period 1934—1939									
ALVINGTON..	—	—	3	—	3	—	2	1	—
AYLBURTON	—	—	11	—	11	9	2	—	—
HEWELSFIELD	—	—	7	—	7	—	3	3	1
LYDNEY	3	26	29	—	55	38	11	5	1
ST. BRIAVELS	—	—	7	—	7	—	2	1	—
TIDENHAM ..	1	11	19	—	30	23	5	1	1
WOOLASTON	1	4	9	—	13	4	5	3	—
TOTAL	5	41	85	—	126	74	30	18	4
Period 1946—1959									
ALVINGTON..	—	—	5	—	5	—	4	—	1
AYLBURTON	—	—	3	—	3	1	2	—	—
HEWELSFIELD	—	—	3	—	3	—	2	1	—
LYDNEY	—	—	14	4	18	8	5	4	1
ST. BRIAVELS	—	—	9	—	9	1	4	2	2
TIDENHAM ..	2	14	8	—	22	1	2	19	—
WOOLASTON	—	—	11	—	11	—	1	9	1
TOTAL	2	14	53	4	71	11	20	35	5

Rent Act, 1957.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	1
No. of Certificates granted	..	..	2
No. of Certificates cancelled	..	..	2

Moveable Dwellings (Public Health Act, 1936—Secs. 268-69).

Number of visits	..	..	..	..	..	41
Licences granted during the year:—						
(a) To use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) To use or station and use a Moveable Dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	1
(c) Renewal of Licences	..	..	..	..	..	16
(d) Licences cancelled (no application for renewal)	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number in Parishes: Lydney	9					
Aylburton	2					
Woolaston	3					
Hewelsfield	2					
St. Briavels	1					

Water Supply—Fifteen sites are supplied by tap or standpipes, two from Public wells.

Water Samples

Forty-eight samples were taken from various sources to the following laboratories:—

Public Health Laboratory, Newport	..	..	..	38
University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, Bristol	..	..	..	10
The sources were as follows: Boreholes				2
Piped supplies	..	..	..	30
Wells	..	..	..	5
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	11
Examination: Newport Laboratory—Bacteriological	..	..	..	34
—Free Chlorine	..	..	..	4
Bristol Laboratory—Bacteriological	..	..	..	4
—Chemical	..	..	..	6

Public Wells

Improvements were carried out to two public wells in the Parishes of Tidenham and Hewelsfield.

Samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination from public wells and standpipes:—

St. Briavels: Of the six samples taken from the Jubilee and Crosskeys Taps, two showed slight contamination. Of reports on two samples taken from the Fence Tap one was slightly contaminated and the other was satisfactory; the Coldharbour and Hudnalls wells showed slight contamination.

- Hewelsfield: Reports on samples taken from the public well near Hewelsfield Church showed gross contamination. Several properties supplied from this source are now connected to the Council's main supply, only five properties remain unconnected.
- Woolaston: Report on sample taken from well at Parkhill shows that it remains heavily contaminated.
- Tidenham: Report on sample taken from well on Poors' Common Allotment showed slight contamination. Nine properties are dependent upon this source and rain water storage tanks for their water supply, and during drought periods water has to be delivered by the Council.
The tap at Hanley Lane showed slight contamination.

Milk

Food and Drugs Acts, 1955.
The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Dairies not at farm	..	..	..	..	..	2
Distributors ..	..	..	..	..	..	20

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949—1953.

Licences granted by the County Council	..	..	1
Licences granted by the Council to use the special designation 'Sterilised' or 'Pasteurised' in relation to milk sold from The Creamery, Quay Street, Gloucester, C.W.S. Creamery, Trecynon, Aberdare, Sedbury Dairies Ltd. and Blears' Dairy, Drybrook	..	..	14

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—1954.

Licences granted by the Council to use the special designation ‘Tuberculin Tested’ Milk 8
9 Producer-Retailers distribute milk produced at their own farms.

There are 20 registered retailers in the district. Nine retailers draw their milk supplies, Sterilised and Pasteurised, in bottles from The Creamery, Quay Street, Gloucester, C.W.S. Creamery, Trecynon, Aberdare, Sedbury Dairies Ltd. and Blears’ Dairy, Drybrook.

Milk Samples.

Fifty-seven samples were taken and submitted for examination. The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—1953.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Newport Laboratory—Schools and in course of delivery	12	0

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—1954.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Newport Laboratory — Sedbury Dairies and in course of delivery	31	14

Biological: 8 samples of raw milk were submitted for examination. Animal inoculation tests on all specimens yielded negative results to tuberculosis.

Sedbury Dairies Ltd.

Number of Producers 40.
Average daily throughput of milk: 2,050 gallons.
Bottles: (daily average) 20,000.

Report on 12 pint bottles taken from the washing machine and submitted for examination on the 9th March, 1959, was fairly satisfactory, the mean bottle count being 3,300 colonies.

The attention of the management of the premises having been drawn to this report, an inspection of the washing machine was carried out when it was found that the jets on the washer were not quite central under the bottles. After adjustments had been carried out a further 12 pint bottles were taken and submitted for examination on the 22nd June, and the report received on these was satisfactory, the mean bottle count being 311 colonies.

Ice-Cream (Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 16).

There are 44 premises registered. Eight premises were registered during the year.

Premises Registered:

For Manufacture (cold-mix method used)	2
For Storage and Sale (pre-packed)	42

23 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination:—

Details:	Grade	I	II	III	IV	Total
		9	14	0	0	23

49 visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream or condition of premises.

Meat Inspection

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering is carried out between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week, and it has been possible to maintain a 100 per cent. inspection of all food animals slaughtered.

During the year ending 31st December, 1959, the following animals have been slaughtered in the two licensed premises:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	135	—	5	1096	131	—
Number inspected	135	—	5	1096	131	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcases .. condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	28	—	—	34	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.7%	—	—	3.1%	1.5%	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am pleased to report that this is the first occasion on which the yearly report on all animals slaughtered shows no carcase, part of a carcase or organ affected with tuberculosis.

Amount of Meat and other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

28 Bovine Livers	..	..	..	300 lbs.
34 Sheep Livers	..	..	..	53 lbs.
1 Pig's Pluck	..	..	..	6 lbs.
1 Pig's Liver	..	..	..	2 lbs.
Fresh Fish	..	..	..	3 stone
Bacon	..	..	..	17 lbs.
Dressed Poultry	..	..	..	16
Imported Cooked Ham	..	..	..	12 tins (average weight 8½ lbs.)
Oranges	..	..	..	10 lbs.
Apricots	..	..	..	16 tins
Beans..	..	..	..	6 tins
Brisling	..	..	..	6 tins
Corned Beef Loaf	..	..	..	4 tins
Corned Beef	..	..	..	7 tins
Fruit Salad	..	..	..	4 bottles
Grapefruit	..	..	..	4 tins
Heinz Baby Food	..	..	..	6 tins
Ideal Milk	..	..	..	15 tins
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	2 tins
Minced Beef	..	..	..	8 tins
Marmalade	..	..	..	5 jars
Orange Flavouring	..	..	..	8 bottles
Ox Tongue	..	..	..	1 tin
Pears	..	..	..	20 tins
Pineapple	..	..	..	32 tins
Peas	..	..	..	14 tins
Peaches	..	..	..	48 tins
Pickle	..	..	..	1 bottle
Pilchards	..	..	..	4 tins
Salmon	..	..	..	17 tins
Soup	..	..	..	12 tins
Strawberries	..	..	..	4 jars
Steak	..	..	..	3 tins
Tomatoes	..	..	..	70 tins

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The Council in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, issued the following licences during the year:—

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs	7
To slaughter and stun pigs only	12
To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs under supervision	2

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report for year ending 31st December, 1959.

	Type of Property		
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All others including business premises
Number of properties inspected by Local Authority as a result of:—			
(a) Notification	—	18	12
(b) Survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	12	1,129	691
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for other purposes)	—	23	28
Total inspections including re-inspections	12	1,221	934
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:—			
(a) Rats: Major	—	—	—
Minor	3	45	19
(b) Mice: Major	—	—	—
Minor	1	5	5
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ..	4	47	17
Number of Block Control schemes carried out	—	5	2

Rodent Control

Good general control was maintained throughout the district. There were no major infestations and minor infestations showed a decrease on those of the previous year.

Following the termination in March of the contract service previously offered to agricultural properties by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, considerable attention was given to farms. Later in the year a service was made available to farmers on an annual contract basis. This service includes frequent inspections of the premises, the treatment of any infestation found and technical advice regarding preventive measures. The contract service was also made available to commercial and industrial premises.

Treatments to sewers in the district were carried out twice during the year. No serious infestations were found and the results of the treatments were satisfactory.

Insect Control.

The good weather of the summer season produced the inevitable increase in the prevalence of insect pests and complaints received showed a considerable increase on those of the previous year. Infestations dealt with included flies, fly-larvae, wasps, ants, fleas, bed-bugs and carpet beetles. The most noticeable increase was in the prevalence of flies and wasps.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the Year 1959:—

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	267	16,161	—	—

Traffic Summary, 1959

Year	Vessels Inwards	Vessels outwards	Timber imported	Coal exported	Other Cargoes
1958	373	374	18,860	16,685	Nil
1959	267	267	20,444	6,182	Nil
Increase	—	—	1,584	—	—
Decrease	106	107	—	10,503	—

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	69	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	7	—	—
TOTAL	51	87	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventila- tion (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveni- ences (S.7) ..					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- workers).	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	1		2	—

OUTWORKERS

Number

Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Lydney, Glos.

9

Means of Escape in Case of Fire (Sec. 34)

Two Certificates were issued specifying in detail the means of escape provided; the number of persons employed or proposed to be employed in the Factories as a whole and any explosive or highly inflammable material stored or used.

I thank the Gloucestershire Fire Service Prevention Department for their continued assistance and owners of Factories for their co-operation.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-two licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit:—

Number on the Register at the end of 1958	..	41
Number added during the year	.. ..	3
Number deleted	.. ..	2
Number of transfers	.. ..	5
Summary: Filling Stations	.. .. 15	
Farms	.. .. 6	
Factories	.. .. 10	
Quarries	.. .. 4	
Business Premises	.. 7	Total 42

Underground tanks and pipelines at three new premises were tested in accordance with the requirements of the above Act.

Twelve new underground tanks and pipelines were installed at five licensed premises, the old underground tanks at two of these premises, which had recently passed the air-pressure test, are now used for the storage of diesel oil and the old underground tanks at the other three premises were filled with sand.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

One premises was licensed for the keeping of carbide of calcium.

Working Party on Inflammable Substances

Home Office Circular

Following the receipt of a questionnaire from the Home Office a detailed investigation was carried out of the inflammable substances, other than petroleum spirit, stored at Factories, Filling Stations, Shops and Vehicle Depots. As a result of the investigation it was ascertained that the number of premises storing such substances was as follows:—

42 premises stored from 5—1,000 gallons of paraffin.

6 premises stored from 1—80 gallons of turpentine.

7 premises stored from 1—120 gallons of creosote.

6 premises stored from 4—40 gallons of white spirit.

The foregoing does not include farms, where it is known that paraffin and tractor vehicle oil is stored, but no details are available.

Clean Air Act, 1956

Oil fired boilers have been installed at three factories with the necessary bunds sufficient to hold at least 10% more than the total capacity of the tanks. This will, it is hoped, abate the nuisance caused by the emission of black smoke from the chimneys of these factories.

The burning of waste rubber on the Lydney Trading Estate has become a problem. Arrangements for the burning to be restricted to two fires in a week when the wind was in a direction that the smoke would be blown away from the town, were not a success and the smoke is creating a Statutory Nuisance under Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 16 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. A meeting between representatives of the Council and the firms concerned was arranged to endeavour to effect some improvement in the position, with a view to avoiding the necessity of formal action.

Alkali &c., Works Regulations Act, 1906

Two premises are registered under the above Act.

National Assistance Act, 1948

One burial was undertaken by the Council during the year, from the parish of Lydney.

Public Health Acts

Complaints: Of the seventy nine received, thirty three were for defective drainage systems. Seventy three were abated after personal approach and the service of preliminary notices; six remain unabated.

St. Briavels Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

A detailed survey of the existing sanitary arrangements and methods of disposal was carried out in respect of 131 properties at St. Briavels for the purpose of the Local Investigation held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, on the proposed sewerage scheme for the village of St. Briavels.

Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)

Two premises, owing to restricted accommodation, were granted Certificates of Exemption from the provisions of the sub-sections (2c) and (4c) of the above Act.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Two premises which could not meet with the requirements of the above Regulations closed during the year. One of these premises was replaced by a new canteen.

Food Premises

Number inspected of the following				Inspections
(a) Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	189
(b) Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	67
(c) Grocers' Shops	..	..	..	81
(d) Catering Establishments	..	..	..	45
(e) Other Food Premises including Mobile Shops				34

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. H. I. Spratt, M.I.Mun. Eng., A.M.P.T.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows:—

The water supplied to the district is derived from four sources:—

- (1) The Ferneyley Springs.
- (2) Boreholes at Rodmore.
- (3) Tufts Level.
- (4) Chepstow Water Co. for the parish of Tidenham.

The Ferneyley Springs are the main source and supplies the parishes of Lydney, Aylburton, Alvington and Woolaston from the reservoirs at Heavens Gate and Chapel Hill. The pumps at Rodmore lift the water from the boreholes and it is then boosted to the reservoir at Harthill to supply Hewelsfield and St. Briavels.

Water from Tufts Level is now used only for industrial purposes. The supplies from Ferneyley Springs and Rodmore are so designed that the yield from one source can be used to reimburse the other.

The estimated yields and consumptions in gallons are as follows:—

	Ferneyley Springs	Tufts
Yield	141,090,000	126,010,000
Amount utilised ..	82,057,000	20,538,000
Surplus	59,033,000	105,472,000

The amount pumped from the Rodmore boreholes was 9,207,000 gallons.

No records are available of the quantity of water supplied by the Chepstow Water Company to the Army Apprentices' School at Beachley and other properties within the parish of Tidenham which are in this Statutory Area of supply.

Work at Tufts Level in the previous year was well worthwhile, and with the new main to the Industrial Estate, has enabled an adequate supply to be maintained for all the various industries.

The small village supply is still used to provide water to the majority of houses in Aylburton village. Mains have been laid throughout the area but no revenue is being received.

The Woolaston Woodside scheme has been completed and all the properties are now enjoying the supply.

In the early part of the year a detailed waste detection programme was carried out, and resulted in a considerable saving on the amount of water being pumped, not only through leaks on the mains, but also through defective fittings. This enabled the dry summer to be faced knowing the whole system was under proper control, and I am pleased to be able to report that, whilst many areas were suffering the effects of the drought, no restrictions were necessary in any part of the Council's Statutory Area of supply. Some areas

not supplied, particularly Tidenham Chase, Boughspring and Hewelsfield, were short of water, and emergency tanks were set up and kept supplied by the Council Staff.

The scheme for the supply of water to High Woolaston and Clapp-y-ates was put out to tender and accepted at a price of £16,003 and at the end of the year practically all the mains were laid and a survey of connections was in hand.

The shortage of water at Tidenham Chase prompted the bringing forward of the scheme to supply this area. Plans etc. were hurriedly prepared for a scheme to supply Tidenham Chase, Miss Grace's Lane, Underhill, Parkhill and the Slade at a cost of £26,587 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Permission was received to carry out this work as an extension of the High Woolaston contract. Negotiations are in hand to commence this work early in 1960.

A further scheme was prepared to supply all the remaining parts of the parishes of Hewelsfield and St. Briavels, including The Fence and Mork, at an estimated cost of £38,770. This was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and, at the end of the year, information was received to the effect that the scheme was approved in principle, providing the County Council have no adverse comments to make on the proposal.

The year's work is very gratifying and when the schemes in hand are completed the whole Statutory Area will be supplied. All this work is not without its problems, but the ready assistance of my staff has been invaluable. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to them for their help and also to the Public Health Committee for their understanding and co-operation. The assistance of the County Water Supplies Officer of the Gloucestershire Agricultural Committee has been instrumental in obtaining rapid approvals to schemes to supply farms.

If reference is made to the previous report of the Medical Officer, it can be claimed that the water supply to the District has followed along a carefully thought out programme and consequently good results have been obtained. The provision of an adequate and wholesome supply has been the main concern, and whilst costs must be borne in mind, it will be appreciated that the further mains are extended into scattered districts, the cost per house must rise.

Looking outside the Statutory Area of the Lydney Rural District Council, to the parish of Tidenham within the Area of the Chepstow Water Company, I view the position with concern. New houses are being erected, and enquiries certainly point to a fairly rapid development in the near future, and steps must be taken to see that an adequate supply of water is available to meet the demands. The supply to this parish must, I feel, receive urgent attention in the coming year.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. H. I. Spratt, the Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows:—

No new Council houses were completed during the year and the number of Council houses remains as at the end of 1958.

			Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War	Total
Lydney .. ..	..	..	235	296	531
Tidenham .. ..	..	..	50	144	194
St. Briavels .. ..	..	..	8	20	28
Aylburton .. ..	..	..	8	36	44
Woolaston .. ..	..	..	12	39	51
Hewelsfield .. ..	..	..	6	4	10
Alvington .. ..	..	..	14	17	31
			333	556	889

In addition to the above the Council own 12 cottages in Lydney, 1 at Aylburton and 5 at Tutshill.

Private Houses completed during the year.

Lydney 15, Hewelsfield 2, St. Briavels 1, Aylburton 5, Tidenham 16, Woolaston 1, bringing the number built since the war to 281.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water Supply.

Ferneyley Supply.

A chemical analysis and a bacteriological examination of the raw water were both satisfactory.

Borehole Supply, Aylesmore.

A chemical analysis and a bacteriological examination of the raw water were both satisfactory.

Tufts Level Supply.

A chemical analysis of the raw water was satisfactory but a bacteriological examination showed pollution.

Chepstow Water Company—Tidenham Parish.

Three samples taken in the hottest part of the year when the supply was low were bacteriologically satisfactory.

St. Briavels Village Supply.

The mains supply is now available to most properties in the village but the old village supply remains, supplying two standpipes, the Jubilee Tap and the Cross Keys Tap. Samples were taken for bacteriological examination from each of these two taps on three occasions; in one case both samples showed slight contamination with coliform bacilli but the others were clear, except one set showed contamination with *Clostridia welchii*, a soil bacterium, which is one of the causes of gas gangrene in wounds.

The springs cannot be adequately protected to make this supply safe.

The Fence Supply.

This is a spring supply, one sample taken being bacteriologically satisfactory and one showed slight contamination. This supply will be superceded by the mains.

Aylburton Village Supply.

Three samples were taken from taps on this supply during the year: one was bacteriologically satisfactory and two showed contamination. The source is at the side of a road and cannot be adequately protected against dangerous pollution.

Sewerage.

The Allastone extension of the Lydney sewerage system was completed during the year. A commencement was made to the Alvington and Netherend scheme. St. Briavels village badly needs to be sewered and progress was made with the preparatory work, and a Ministry's Inspector made an investigation at the end of the year.

Tidenham is a rapidly growing parish with increasing sewerage problems and the need for sewerage is becoming urgent.

Half Acre Cafe.

Of the samples taken from the water supply at this café, one taken from a tap was satisfactory and one contaminated. One taken from the raw water was contaminated.

Swimming Pools

Bathurst Pool

This was built and presented to the people of Lydney and Aylburton in 1920. It is 120 feet long and 44 feet wide; 6 feet 3 inches deep at the deep end and 3 feet deep at the shallow end, so having a capacity of about 180,000 gallons. Chlorination, filtration and aeration apparatus is in use and the cleanliness of the water is most impressive, especially in view of the great use to which the pool is put.

Beachley Swimming Pool.

This is a large pool 216 feet by 110 feet and 6 feet deep except for a third which slopes up to 2 feet; the content hence being about 860,000 gallons.

It was constructed during the First World War by German P.O.W's for industry. The water supply is estuary water collected in a settlement pool at high tide. Once filled, the pool is not emptied during a season but about 20,000 gallons per day is pumped daily to replace water let out. A previous owner chlorinated the water with chlorine gas as it was pumped in, but the present owner does not do this but he pours some "chloros" hypochlorite on the surface daily. He also has constructed a crude gravity gravel and sand filter which is too small to be effective. He also adds some 70 lbs. of copper sulphate per year as an algicide.

Complaints have been received in recent years of the dirty appearance of the water and the condition was markedly bad during this year. The water tended to stink at times.

A sample of the water of the settlement pool taken on the 15th June, contained 35 coliform bacilli per 100 mls., 13 being faecal (type I) and samples of the pool showed no coliform bacteria at the deep end and about 1 per 100 mls. at the shallow end. A chemical analysis on a sample taken on the 1st July, was reported on as follows: "The appearance and general condition of the sample would suggest that the pool would benefit from emptying, cleaning and refilling." There were 2.15% solids present of which 2.11 were mineral, 1.92% being salt. Large numbers of infusoria were present. Bacteriological examination done on this sample showed no coliform bacilli and low plate counts.

In view of my report and of complaints, the Public Health Committee met the owner and asked him to consider improving the condition of the water. The suggestion was made that the pool be emptied every month at least, but this would not be possible because the supply of water from the settlement pool depends upon the tides.

Whereas, it appears to me that less frequent circulation with chlorination, filtration and aeration, than the usually recommended six hourly one, would keep this salty water clean, yet it was not possible to give the owner an assurance that this would be acceptable; it is unlikely that any suitable firm would agree to supply the necessary apparatus under such conditions when they could not guarantee its success.

Apparatus for six hourly circulation would probably cost £30,000. A suggestion was made to the owner that he might divide the pool into two, purify one part for swimming and use the other for boating, but this was not accepted.

Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw Waters) taken on 2.12.59.

	Aylesmore Borehole	Ferneley Springs	Tufts Level
CHEMICAL (parts per million) ..			
Total Dissolved Solids	298	199	331
Loss on ignition	34	32	36
Mineral Matter	264	167	295
Total hardness	252	136	294
(a) Permanent	63	45	92
(b) Temporary	189	91	202
Chlorine (as Chloride)	10	22	14
Free Ammonia	—	—	—
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.29	0.63	1.35
Nitrite Nitrogen	—	—	—
Metals	—	—	—
Reaction pH	7.6	7.8	7.5
BACTERIOLOGICAL			
Plate Count. on Yeastral agar			
48 hours at 37oC	6	1	6
3 days at 22oC	63	21	85
Coliform bacilli (probable number)	—	—	13
Bact. coli (type I)	—	—	5

NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: R. S. CHEW

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. B. V. W. ROWDEN

Members: Councillors J. M. Brooks, A. J. Bubb, I. C. Davies, F. Dunn, A. E. Hicks, G. H. Hyett, F. G. Knight, R. P. Ovington, W. P. P. Price, J. M. Smith, P. F. Winfield and W. E. Wright.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Public Health
Inspector: H. S. JENKINSON, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health
Inspector and Pests Officer: T. A. CHETWOOD.
Rodent Operator(part-time): J. FREEMAN.

Statistics

Population=8,540 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1959).
Area=40,845 acres.
Number of inhabited dwellings=2,744.
Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1959=£59,208.
Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1959=£228 1s. 3d.
Number of Live Births=153. Number of Deaths=90.
Excess of Births over Deaths=63.
Birth Rate=17.9 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.15 this gives a corrected rate of 20.6.
Death Rate=10.5 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 0.94 this gives a corrected rate of 9.9.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	75	71	146	6	1	7	81	72	153
Still Births	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of infants under									
1 week	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1

Notification of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Tuberculosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Register)
Bromsberrow ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Corse	4	—	—	6	—	—
Dymock	18	—	—	—	—	4
Hartpury	10	—	—	32	—	2
Kempley	1	—	—	—	—	2
Newent	105	36	4	1	3	14
Oxenhall	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pauntley	1	—	—	—	—	—
Redmarley ..	1	1	—	2	—	3
Rudford	4	—	—	—	—	4
Staunton	4	—	—	6	—	3
Taynton	4	—	1	—	1	1
Tibberton ..	16	—	—	—	—	—
Upleadon ..	1	—	—	3	1	—
Male	99	18	2	23	2	18
Female	77	19	3	27	3	15
TOTAL ..	176	37	5	50	5	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

A widespread epidemic occurred in the months of February and March.

Whooping Cough.

An epidemic of this disease occurred in Newent in April.

Scarlet Fever.

Only five isolated cases occurred.

Acute encephalitis.

One of the cases of measles was notified as a case, due to the measles infection. The child recovered.

Erysipelas.

One case was notified in May.

Pneumonia.

There were two notifications, one associated with measles.

Puerperal pyrexia.

There were two cases.

Dysentery.

The small epidemics at Upleadon and Redmarley in March were followed by an epidemic at Hartpury, Corse and Staunton in April and May. This disease is contagious; the motions being highly infectious. When this is emphasized to patients and contacts, the necessary precautions of cleanliness and hand washing are applied and new cases cease to arise. The Additional Public Health Inspector called on all known cases and contacts and advised: specimens of faeces were sent to the Associated Public Health Laboratory at Gloucester for confirmation of the diagnosis or of cessation of infectivity. This course of action was most effective in bringing the epidemic to a close and of preventing its spread. Altogether 45 cases were notified and 40 cases found otherwise.

Acute poliomyelitis

A case arose in September in a very active young man of 21 who had been working hard. He was taken ill with pain in the back and legs and quickly became paralysed in his legs followed by the respiratory muscles. Poliomyelitis virus type I was isolated. He required tracheotomy and artificial respiration, but recovered with some residual weakness in his lower limbs.

Food Poisoning.

A case was notified of a child in Newent in October. This was due to *Salmonella typhimurium* and the Reference Laboratory typed this to be due to a variety called 'agama'. This is normally only found in Nigeria. The mother was inclined to blame a meat pie, but no evidence could be found for infection from the same batch.

Chickenpox.

The School Returns showed an epidemic at Newent in January, at Upleadon in February and at Corse in February and again in November.

Mumps.

There were epidemics at Staunton in January, Dymock in June and Newent in November.

Brucellosis.

I was informed of a case of this disease in a milker. This is due to *Brucella abortus* which causes abortus fever in cattle, and can be caused from ingestion or by penetration of the organism through abrasions and cuts. One of the cows that this man milked was found to be infected.

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Bromsberrow ..	230	74	51	—
Corse	454	146	87	—
Dymock	1,192	383	271	8
Hartpury	660	212	155	—
Kempley	258	83	79	—
Newent	3,020	970	929	14
Oxenhall	227	73	46	—
Pauntley	165	53	26	1
Redmarley	756	243	152	—
Rudford	252	81	57	—
Staunton	386	124	103	—
Taynton	426	137	59	—
Tibberton	290	93	78	—
Upleadon	224	72	64	—
TOTALS	8,540	2,744	2,157	23

The Gloucester Corporation Water Undertaking supplies all the properties on the mains supply except the following:—

Malvern U.D.C. supplies all the 51 properties supplied at Bromsberrow; 52 properties at Dymock and 19 at Redmarley. Also a bulk supply of 22,878,000 gallons was taken from the Gloucester Corporation Supply to serve 608 properties in Newent Town.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows:—

(a) Public Health Section.

Housing

Unfit houses closed

i Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	10
ii Under Section 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	—
iii Parts of building closed	—
Unfit houses licensed for temporary occupation	1
Unfit houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957 ..	—
Unfit houses in which defects were remedied or made fit by informal action	52

Housing Survey

No. of unfit houses	99
No. of houses up-graded or Statutory action taken	73
No. of above properties vacated	38
No. of properties at end of year to be dealt with	26

Rent Act, 1957

Applications for certificates of disrepair:

No. of applications for certificates	..	..	..	..	—
No. of decisions to issue certificates	..	..	..	..	—
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	..	..	..	..	—
(b) in respect of all defects	..	..	..	..	—

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	36	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	8	—	—
TOTAL	35	55	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

Caravan Licences

There are no large caravan sites in the area. 17 Licences mainly for single caravans were either granted or renewed.

Water Supplies

Well Supplies.

20 well supply samples were examined by the Council's Analyst and all were considered to be unsatisfactory; these samples were taken mainly for proposed water main extensions.

Milk Supplies

The Council is responsible for registration and licences as shown below.

All milk sold retail in the district has to be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

Issue of Licences for Milk Dealers

Classification of Milk	Dealer's Licences	Supplementary Licences
Tuberculin Tested	5	—
Pasteurised	4	3
Sterilised	1	—

*Note:—*Supplementary Licences are issued to dealers who distribute milk from premises situated outside the District.

Retail Milk Sampling

NATURE OF TEST	Results of Examinations	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue (keeping quality)	4	2
Phosphatase (efficiency of pasteurisation) ..	4	—
Biological (presence of tubercle bacilli) ..	1	—
Coliform or plate count (cleanliness) ..	Sampling is done by County P.H. Inspector	

Milk Registration

No. of milk distributors registered	7
No. of dairy premises registered (other than dairy farms) ..	3

Meat

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—1952

Slaughterhouses

There are 3 slaughterhouses in the District at Newent, Dymock and Tibberton. (The one at Dymock is used only occasionally.)

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

14 Slaughtermen are licensed in the District.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	204	—	3	1,283	323	—
Number inspected	204	—	3	1,283	323	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcases .. condemned ..	—	—	1	3	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	33	—	—	31	20	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	16.2	—	33.3	2.7	7.7	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	0.6	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for:—

(1) All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis ..	847 lbs.
(2) Tuberculosis	40 lbs.
(3) Cysticercosis	—

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that articles of food are unfit for human consumption.

5 tins of meat were condemned during the year.

Ice-Cream

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district. 19 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and the ice-cream sold is pre-packed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes & Canteens	15	30	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	34	82	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice-Cream Vendors	19	28	Registered under S.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.
Butchers Shops	7	50	(This includes two Mobile Traders from outside the district). 3 registered under S.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955 (sausage making, etc.)
Fishmongers	3	10	(This includes 2 mobile vans). There is one fried fish premises in the district.
Bakehouses	3	15	Two closed during the year.
Licensed Premises	19	25	Work completed at two premises. All in good hygienic condition.
Dairies	3	14	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	2	4	Egg Packing and Poultry Dressing Station.

Disposal of condemned food is a very minor matter, and is dealt with by burial on the Council tips. Suitable meat condemned at the slaughterhouses is dyed and salvaged for manufacture by slaughterhouse owners.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report by the Additional Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer.

During the year the following work was carried out:—

							Inspections	Treatment
Private Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	4
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	2
Farms	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	3
Business Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	2
Sewers	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	6
TOTAL							284	19

Details of work carried out on Sewers and Refuse Tips.

Sewers and Works		Action Taken	Result
Cleeve Lane Sewage Works	.. ..	..Treatment	Minor infestation— Cleared
Cadbury's Sewage Works	.. ..	..Treatment	Clear
Lancaster Terrace Sewage Works	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear
Newent Town Sewers	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear
Dymock Sewerage System	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear

Refuse Tips		Action Taken	Result
Dymock Refuse Tip	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear
Malswick Tip	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear
Tibberton	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear
Newent R.D.C. Yard (Salvage Depot)	.. ..	..Test Baited	Clear
Kempley		Test Baited	Clear

When this Council carries out treatments at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of the treatment, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council have no arrangements to carry out disinfestation by contract.

The Council's Rodent Operator is a full-time employee and undertakes part-time duty in Rodent Control when necessary. The methods employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

In one case it was necessary to ask for improvements to be made, and these were carried out.

(b) Surveyor's Section

Council Houses

The Council own 336 houses and 3 flats, excluding the Caretaker's Flat at the Council Offices. 6 houses and one flat are 2-bedroomed, the remainder being 3 and 4 bedroomed. Work on the erection of a further 8 two-bedroomed houses commenced in August. No further proposals for new housing had matured at the end of the year, but the Council in anticipation of further building being necessary, decided to review the rent structure of existing Council Houses with a view to incorporating a rent rebate scheme.

Conversion

Plans were approved and work commenced at the end of the year for conversion by direct labour of the basement at High House, Dymock into a 2-bedroomed flat.

Improvements to Council Houses

Of the 126 pre-war Council Houses, the following were deficient in respect of one or more of the five basic amenities eligible for Grant aid under the Standard Improvement Grant Scheme:—

Wash hand basins	..	..	..	126
Hot water systems	..	..	..	106
W.C.'s	..	..	..	36
Baths and Larders	..	..	..	Nil

During the year 7 hot water systems were installed, and improvements to drainage system with installation of W.C's at 2 houses.

Circular letters were sent out to tenants of 70 Council Houses enquiring whether they would like hot water systems and wash hand basins installed with a small rent increase. 29 consented for this work to be carried out.

Private Housing

26 private houses were erected.

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Improvement Grants were issued in respect of 22 dwellings and Conversion Grants in respect of 5 dwellings.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 came into operation in the middle of the year. This Act provides for Grants for the installation of basic amenities. 20 applications were approved during the latter part of the year.

Refuse Collection

There was no change in the period of collection or method of disposal. A new diesel engined lorry was purchased to replace the old petrol engine vehicle.

Nearly 29 tons of paper were collected and sold for a little over £200.

The rate levied for refuse collection and disposal was 6s. 8d. This shows a reduction of 0.4d. on the previous year's rate for this work.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Newent

Technical and administrative work in connection with the provision of new sewage disposal works at Cleeve Lane to serve the town of Newent had been practically finalised by the end of the year. The approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the proposed scheme is now awaited.

Newent Sewerage

The old sewer in Station Road, which was laid at a very shallow depth, collapsed and had to be relaid. A further length of sewer near the old Tan Yard, affected by tree roots, also had to be taken up and re-laid.

Dymock

3 new connections were made to the sewerage system in connection with Improvement Grant schemes.

Corse and Staunton

A small number of new connections were made to these Works.

Hartpury

These Works which have been taken over by the Council serve a private Housing Estate. 3 new dwellings were connected to this system.

Need for sewerage systems

There is a need for sewerage systems to deal with the following villages:—

Redmarley.

Hartpury.

Tibberton.

Public Conveniences

New public conveniences were erected in the Recreation Ground, Watery Lane, Newent. There are now two separate public conveniences at Newent and one at Dymock.

Petroleum Storage

39 premises were licensed for bulk storage of petrol.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows on the number of houses completed:—

Council Houses

PARISH		1959	Pre-War	Post-War including 1959	Total
Bromsberrow	..	—	6	4	10
Corse	..	—	6	12	18
Dymock	..	—	16	26*	42
Hartpury	..	—	10	6	16
Kempley	..	—	4	12	16
Newent	..	6	54	113	167
Oxenhall	..	—	—	6	6
Pauntley	..	—	—	—	—
Redmarley	..	—	8	16	24
Rudford	..	—	—	4	4
Staunton	..	—	6	6	12
Taynton	..	—	8	—	8
Tibberton	..	—	2	4	6
Upleadon	..	—	6	4	10
TOTAL	..	6	126	213	339

* Includes 3 flats at the High House, Dymock.

Private Houses

26 private houses were erected during the year, making a total of 208 during the post-war period.

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: W. G. MORGAN

Members: Councillors J. Crook, R. S. Jones, P. M. George, W. O. G. Whittington, P. L. Thomas, G. P. Hill and J. Rooke Johnston.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health
Inspector: W. T. BEBB, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health
Inspector: C. W. BEDDIS, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Operator and
Assistant to the Public
Health Inspector: E. T. NELMES

Statistics

Population=17,890 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1959).

Area=24,155 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=5,588.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1959, was £139,894

Product of 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1959, was £450 0s. 10d.

Number of Live Births=276. Number of Deaths= 197.

Excess of Births over Deaths=79.

Birth Rate=15.4 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.05 this gives a corrected rate of 16.2.

Death Rate=11.0 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.03 this gives a corrected rate of 11.3.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	136	129	265	7	4	11	143	133	276
Still Births	1	3	4	—	1	1	1	4	5
Deaths of infants under									
1 week	6	1	7	—	—	—	6	1	7
4 weeks	7	1	8	—	—	—	7	1	8
1 year	7	2	9	—	—	—	7	2	9

Notification of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases) on Registers
Bream	11	—	—	2	25
Ellwood	1	—	—	1	3
Broadwell	3	—	—	—	14
Berry Hill	3	—	—	1	18
Milkwall	2	—	—	1	9
Pillowell	—	—	—	—	9
Whitcroft	1	—	—	—	14
Parkend	—	—	1	1	4
Yorkley	3	—	—	2	18
Viney Hill	—	—	—	—	3
Coleford	4	—	—	—	25
English Bicknor	—	—	—	—	—
Lydbrook	—	—	6	—	21
Joys Green	—	—	—	—	16
Clearwell	—	—	—	—	4
Redbrook	—	—	—	—	4
Staunton	2	—	—	—	1
MALE	15	—	4	8	123
FEMALE	15	—	3	—	65
TOTAL	30	—	7	8	188

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

There was no epidemic, the cases being scattered throughout the year.

Whooping Cough

There were no notifications.

Scarlet Fever

Six of the cases arose at Lydbrook in December.

Pneumonia

There were three notifications.

Erysipelas

There was one case at Sling.

Ophthalmia neonatorum

This is a discharge from the eye in the first month of life. There was one notification.

Chickenpox

The School Returns showed an epidemic at Joys Green in May.

Mumps

The School Returns showed an epidemic at Broadwell in October and Yorkley in November and December and a number of cases elsewhere.

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

PARISH OR WARD	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
WEST DEAN PARISH:				
Bream	2,417	755	669	4
Ellwood	458	143	105	1
Broadwell	1,720	537	461	16
Berry Hill	1,354	423	337	8
Milkwall	708	221	199	1
Pillowell	435	136	109	9
Whitecroft	641	200	178	6
Parkend	656	205	177	3
Yorkley	1,319	412	372	9
Viney Hill	403	126	82	4
<hr/>				
Total W.D. Parish ..	10,111	3,158	2,689	61
Coleford	3,579	1,118	1,008	24
English Bicknor ..	458	143	123	3
Lydbrook Ward ..	1,437	449	396	24
Joys Green Ward ..	1,043	326	311	8
Lydbrook Parish ..	(2,480)	(775)	(707)	(32)
Newland-Clearwell ..	692	216	188	5
Newland-Redbrook ..	355	111	87	—
Total Newland Parish	(1,047)	(327)	(275)	(5)
Staunton	215	67	64	2
<hr/>				
Total West Dean Rural District ..	17,890	5,588	4,866	127

Mr. E. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and the properties connected to the mains for the above table; I have apportioned the population of the Rural District as estimated by the Registrar General according to the number of dwellings.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. W. T. Bebb reports as follows:—

Housing

- (a) Action under Section 16/17 of the Housing Act, 1957.
 - (i) Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made 5
 - (ii) Number of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:—
 - (a) the houses would cease to be used for human habitation Nil
 - (b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the local authority Nil

(iii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	1
(iv) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses rendered fit	2
(b) Action under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1957.	
Number of demolition orders revoked after properties involved had been made fit	1
(c) Action under Section 27 of the Housing Act 1957.	
Number of closing orders determined after properties had been made fit	1

The small number of houses on which action under the Housing Act was taken during the year is accounted for by the fact that only 16 new slum clearance houses were completed and of these 10 were occupied by tenants from hutments at Wynols Hill, owned by the Council.

The total houses now built for slum clearance is 74, with 35 further houses and 32 old people's dwellings in course of erection, and six houses and six bungalows to be built in the 1960 programme.

Demolition of Condemned Properties

Eleven houses were completely demolished during the year and a further 25 were in the process of being demolished when the year ended.

The determined efforts made by the Public Health Committee during the past 2 years in compelling owners to demolish their condemned properties has resulted in the almost complete disappearance of the many eyesores which defaced the sides of the main roads.

Efforts are now proceeding on properties in less conspicuous positions.

Up to the end of the year it had not been necessary to carry out any demolition work in default of owners, but it is evident that in the very near future it will be necessary to do this.

Apart from houses in the current slum clearance programme, the number of condemned houses still occupied has now been reduced from 27 in 1953 to 4. One of these is let on licence; one is in fairly good condition; but the remaining two are in a deplorable state and, it is hoped, that before long the Council will find alternative accommodation for these families.

Slum Clearance

One hundred and fifty of the three hundred houses and 21 hutments originally included in the slum clearance programme have now been dealt with under the Housing Act; 21 have been made fit without formal action being taken, whilst a further 38 have become vacant and are not likely to be re-occupied. This leaves 112 houses on which action has still to be taken.

A large proportion of these remaining houses are occupied by old people who refuse to move to accommodation offered by the Council, although that accommodation is now normally an 'old people's bungalow'. Six of these bungalows will shortly be completed in the Lydbrook Parish but although there are still 18 slum properties in that area occupied by old people, enquiries have shown that only one man and wife wish to move.

Water Supply

Sixty-seven samples of water were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. Their results were as follows:—

Main Supply

Source	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Springs serving Redbrook supply (before chlorination)	14	10	4
Limekiln Pool Springs (before chlorination) ..	10	8	2
Direct from taps on main supply (after chlorination)	35	34	1

Other Sources

Source	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Wells	1	—	1
Cannop Colliery System (chlorinated)	1	1	—
Speech House System (unchlorinated) ..	4	1	3
Private supplies including reservoirs of collected roof water ..	3	1	2

One more public well fell into disuse during the year as a result of connections to the mains supply. The total number of public wells in the district now known to be in use is 32.

The number of properties depending for their supply of water on these wells, and also on private sources of supply fell again during the year quite considerably. This is a most satisfactory position, as it is known that almost every one of these independent sources is liable to pollution. Further, the connection of a property to the main is usually followed by other and more general improvements.

Milk and Dairies

Registration of persons distributing milk.

Number on register at beginning of 1959	..	..	21
Removed from register during year	..	..	Nil
Added to register	..	..	1
Total distributors at end of year	..	..	22

In addition to this, there are 16 Producer-retailers distributing Tuberculin Tested milk in the district. Of these, three supplement their output with designated milk purchased from other sources, and accordingly require the appropriate dealers licences.

Registration of premises used as Dairies.

The number of registered Dairies has been increased by one and now totals 5.

Licences authorising the use of Special Designations.

(a) The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—1953.

(i) Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	18
(ii) Supplementary	..	..	..	..	..	5

(b) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—1954.

(i) Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	18
(ii) Supplementary	..	..	..	..	..	6

Sampling

A total of 72 samples of milk was taken and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport. Results were as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test	
Raw Milk		Past. Milk		Past. Milk	
Satisf'y	Unsatisf'y	Satisf'y	Unsatisf'y	Satisf'y	Unsatisf'y
36	7	22	Nil. † See below	28	1

† No test was applied to 7 pasteurised samples owing to shade temperature being in excess of 65°F.

Routine tests were made on all the raw milk samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli by guinea pig inoculation. All results were negative.

No tests for the presence of *Brucella abortus* were carried out.

Ice-Cream

Registration of premises for the Sale, Storage or Manufacture of Ice-Cream

Number on register at beginning of 1959	..	..	76
Removed from register during year	..	..	Nil
Added to register	..	..	7
Total registered premises at end of year	..	..	83

SAMPLING: No samples were taken during 1959 owing to the inability to obtain 'dry ice' and because all ice-cream is now supplied by one or other of the large manufacturing companies.

Food Hygiene

Food Premises

Works to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and/or the Shops Act, 1950, were completed at all except 5 of the 194 food premises being operated in the district at the end of the year.

Among the improvements effected were the following:—

Structural repairs	..	..	..	..	56
Rooms cleaned and redecorated	..	..	..	..	101
Improved food storage	..	..	..	..	54
Improved lighting and ventilation	..	..	..	..	19
Improved equipment	..	..	..	..	59
Protection against contamination	..	..	..	..	56
Wholesome water provided	..	..	..	..	5
Additional sinks or washbasins	..	..	..	..	28
Washbasins or sinks fitted with cold water	..	..	..	..	23
Washbasins or sinks fitted with hot water	..	..	..	..	56
Soap, nailbrushes and towels provided	..	..	..	..	32
Clothing accommodation provided	..	..	..	..	42
First-aid materials provided	..	..	..	..	35
Additional sanitary conveniences	..	..	..	..	14
Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	44

Two applications for Exemption Certificates under the Food Hygiene Regulations were received and both refused.

Under the Shops Act, 1950, one application for an Exemption Certificate in respect of sanitary accommodation was granted, and one refused.

Mobile Shops

Owners of mobile shops operating in the district were informed of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and in appropriate cases were supplied with particulars of suitable hand washing units.

Public Houses and Clubs

There are 70 public houses and clubs in the district. All were inspected during the year and the owners informed of works necessary to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and Public Health Act, 1936.

All except two have mains water supply, but 12 were found to be without adequate washing-up facilities, 34 without adequate personal washing facilities, and 4 without adequate sanitary accommodation. Repairs were necessary at 45 premises and the number requiring some degree of cleaning or redecoration was 43.

The Brewery Companies proved to be particularly co-operative and by the end of the year good progress had been made with the works of improvement.

Meat and Food Inspection

The following food was rejected as being unfit for human consumption at various food premises throughout the district:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Beef sausages	..	..	rancidity.
95 lbs. Wet fish	..	..	decomposition.
30 lbs. Currants	..	..	rodent contamination.
80 tins of assorted foodstuffs			
totalling 126 lbs. 15 oz.	..		as being either blown, damaged or the contents decomposed.

Slaughterhouses

The use of the one slaughterhouse in the district was restricted to the slaughter of animals sent in as 'casualties'.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	—	—	—	48	10	—
Number inspected	—	—	—	48	10	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	4	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	10	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	—	—	—	29.2	10	—

No animals slaughtered were affected by tuberculosis or cysticercosis.

General

Caravan Sites

Thirty one licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to use parcels of land for a total of thirty two caravans.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide.

Number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit ..	63
Number of premises licensed to store calcium carbide ..	6

Slaughter of Animals Act 1958.

Number of licences issued to slaughter animals	7
--	---

Game Act 1831.

Two certificates under the above Act were issued during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Number of properties inspected	188
Number of properties found to be infested with rats ..	118
Number of properties found to be infested with mice ..	25
Total number of infestations dealt with by the Local Authority (including re-infestations)	143

Rivers and Streams.

Moore’s Swabs were placed in the 3 streams in West Dean known to be polluted. No organisms of enteric, salmonella or dysentery groups were isolated.

Swimming Baths.

A new swimming bath was opened at the Berry Hill Secondary Modern School during the year. Filtration and chlōrination plant was not installed at the time of construction, but it is the intention to provide this before next Summer, when the bath will have its first full season’s use.

Tests on the Bell’s Grammar School Swimming Bath water, taken regularly during the season, showed that chlorination by hand can be reasonably satisfactory when great care is taken.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect’ns	Written notices	Occupiers Prosec’ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	38	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers’ premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	87	38	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	2	—	—	—

Outworkers

Ninety five persons were notified by a local factory that specialises in the manufacture of pins, hair-grips, metal fasteners, etc., as being employed by them as outworkers.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR’S REPORT

Mr. H. Parks, M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E., A.R.S.H., reports as follows:—

1. Water Supply.

(a) **Rainfall.** In spite of the remarkably fine summer experienced, with prolonged spells of hot, dry weather, the total rainfall for the

year was slightly more than average, the figure being 39.15". However, little more than 1/6th of this fell during the five months May to September, the total for this summer period being 6.98".

At 5.88" and 8.46" for November and December respectively considerable leeway was made in the building up of underground supplies, and the heavy rainfall experienced during these last two months of the year saved what might otherwise have been a very serious situation.

As it was, the Council did not find it necessary to introduce restrictions at all during the year, even though heavy and prolonged demands were made from the East Dean R.D.C. and the Royal Forest Fruit Drinks Factory.

The usual routine observations as to intensity of run-off in the Lydbrook stream and the Redbrook springs were kept, and at no time either from drought in the one extreme, or flood in the other, were any special measures necessary.

(b) Yield of Springs. As indicated above, the prolonged summer dry spell had effect on the total yield of springs from the Lydbrook and Redbrook sources.

In early July the total combined yield from all sources was over 1,300,000 g.p.d. and up to that time the normal daily demand was approximately 680,000 g.p.d. From then on, however, this demand rose to a figure of 950,000 g.p.d. and on occasions reached as much as 1,250,000 g.p.d., due mainly to the increased demand of the East Dean Council and the coincidence of the Royal Forest Factory's blackcurrant season.

The total yield of all springs supplying West Dean progressively diminished from early July onwards, reaching its lowest during December of 1959, at a total of 970,000 g.p.d. made up of 210,000 g.p.d. from Redbrook and the remainder from Lydbrook.

Fortunately, the demand had also been somewhat reduced as the blackcurrant season at the Royal Forest Factory was finished by the end of August, and a full supply situation was maintained throughout the year.

(c) Pumping Statistics.

	<i>Total Abstracted</i>	<i>Proportion Taken by East Dean R.D.C.</i>	<i>Proportion taken by West Dean R.D.C.</i>	<i>Average Consumption per head per day</i>
1957	234,808,000 gallons	28,000,000 gallons	206,808,000 gallons	29.88 gallons
1958	232,330,000 gallons	12,274,000 gallons	220,056,000 gallons	30.19 gallons
1959	279,370,000 gallons	38,316,000 gallons	241,054,000 gallons	31.36 gallons

It will be seen from the above that the average consumption per head of population is continually rising, as of course would be expected with all new building work and the modernisation of houses which had not hitherto enjoyed either water systems or water carriage systems.

(d) **Estimated Future Demand.** Looking more closely at the supply and demand situation experienced during 1959, and realising how nearly the increased demand outstripped the diminishing yield, it behoves the Council to give serious thought to augmenting their present supplies.

The need for this is even more pronounced when it is known that during 1959 the Royal Forest Factory asked the West Dean R.D.C. to ensure for them a minimum supply of 300,000 g.p.d. by June of 1960, and up to 500,000 g.p.d. within two years from that date.

The Council are, therefore, actively investigating the position likely to arise in the near future.

(e) **Routine Sampling.** Routine sampling both of raw water and treated water has been carried out by the Public Health Department throughout the year, and the results of analysis have shown the sources of supply to be very good.

(f) **General Maintenance.** During 1959 routine works have been carried out at both pumping stations; new switch gear and transformer being fitted at the Redbrook pumping station, and both the Redbrook and Lydbrook premises have been thoroughly painted and redecorated.

Work has continued throughout the year on maintenance of mains and waste water detection, repairs being effected both to the mains and to communication pipes wherever the need has arisen.

During the year there were 83 new tappings to the mains, being 29 for new building operations, 8 for special supply and 46 for domestic supplies.

(g) **Supply Conditions throughout the Distribution Network of Mains.** Two major difficulties have been experienced during the year, one at Yorkley Slade and parts of Oldcroft, the other at Stowe Green, and in both cases they are due to the fact that the demand on the mains has now exceeded their carrying capacity.

Mention was made in the Annual Report for 1958 that the conditions at Yorkley were unsatisfactory, and during the summer of 1959 became so acute that the Council purchased an emergency mobile boosting pump and have since September of 1959 done emergency boosting on the mains at Yorkley to the Water Tower, in order to maintain a satisfactory supply situation.

In addition to the emergency mobile boosting the Council had prepared a scheme for a permanent booster station, and at the close of the year tenders for this work were with the Ministry awaiting approval.

So far as Stowe Green is concerned, this situation was reported upon to the Water Committee and a scheme for the laying of a 3" water main from Sling reservoir to a point on the existing Stowe Green main was recommended by me to them.

Considerable correspondence and discussions have taken place between myself and the Crown Commissioners, and it seems likely that as the Crown Commissioners are the main consumers along this line of main with their agricultural holdings, they will be prepared to make an ex-gratia contribution towards the cost of this 3" link main.

Again, at the close of the year the matter was still under consideration, and a final decision was being awaited from the Crown Commissioners.

(h) Other Schemes of Water Main Extensions and Capital Investment. As well as the new Boosting Station at Yorkley and the 3" link main at Sling reservoir mentioned earlier, the Council have now decided to carry out the following schemes if possible:—

- 1—The provision of a new 4" water main from Hangerberry through Lydbrook to "Temco," to supplement the existing 2".
- 2—The laying of a 9" water main from the 12" main at Mile End via Broadwell and Milkwall to the Sling reservoir, to augment the input into that service reservoir.
- 3—The construction of a 12,000 gallon steel reservoir on the 2" main serving the village of Newland to act as a reserve when the carrying capacity of the 2" main is less than the demand.
- 4—The laying of a 6" water main from Mile End to Gloucester Road, Coleford, to meet the needs of new private and Council development in that part of Coleford.
- 5—The construction of a new Booster pumping station in the Berry Hill/Edge End vicinity to enable water to be transferred from the main supplies at Lydbrook to the highest reservoir at Staunton, and incidentally, to boost the existing pressures in the distribution mains between the proposed Booster station and the existing Staunton reservoir.
- 6—The laying of a 9" water main from Milkwall via Tufthorn to High Nash, to serve a proposed new industrial estate and to augment supplies to Carter's Royal Forest Factory.

(i) **During 1959 the Council prepared schemes as follows:—**

1—Water main extensions to supply Cannop and from there to supply the Speech House Hotel and the Old Dean Hall School.

2—To supply 13 properties at The Lonk, Joyford.

3—To supply 2 properties at English Bicknor.

4—To supply 4 properties at Edge End.

5—The laying of 3" water mains on the new housing estate at Gloucester Road, to serve some 80 proposed dwellings.

At the close of the year the laying of the Cannop and Speech House mains was well advanced.

(j) **Water Supplies for Potential Industrial Development.** Considerable thought has been given to this aspect of water supply during 1959, and it has been accepted that any very heavy industrial demands would have to be met to some great extent, though not necessarily wholly so, from supplies other than existing waterworks undertaking. It might well be necessary to consider taking mine water either from the iron ore or the coal measures within the Forest area and pumping it to supply industry.

It is most difficult to know to what extent this matter should be pursued and money spent on investigations, in the absence of any firm proposal for the establishment of any industry, and certainly in the absence of any information as to how much water any particular type of industry might require.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

(a) **Public.** During 1959 the laying of public sewers and the construction of the low level sewage pumping station at Broadwell was completed, and brought into satisfactory operation.

The Berry Hill sewage pumping station gave no trouble during the year and no difficulties were experienced with this equipment.

The extensive accumulation of dried sludge at Newland disposal works was all cleared away, making very good use of the old refuse collection vehicle earmarked for this purpose, the sludge being dumped on the refuse tips and covered over with refuse on each occasion.

During the year there were 48 new connections to sewers, and sewer extensions were laid in Gloucester Road to serve the new Gloucester Road housing estate both for foul and storm water sewers.

(b) **Council House Sites.** The extension of sewers at Broadwell to serve 18 houses in Wood Road and North Road was completed and those houses connected thereto.

At Yorkley the sewage ejector was reconditioned, thermostatic heating installed in the pump house, and the whole of the building internally and externally was redecorated.

Maintenance work and desludging at all other Council house disposal sites were carried out according to the contract programme during the year, and no difficulties or complaints have arisen.

(c) **Coleford and Lydbrook Culverts.** At the latter end of 1958 the Council decided to make a comprehensive survey for the location and internal examination of the culverts running through and underneath Coleford, and during 1959 this work was carried out.

3,500 yards of culvert of varying diameters was examined internally and reported upon, and 1,200 yards of tributary stream or ditch was examined and included in the report.

It was quite apparent from the results of the survey that the culvert is in a defective state in many places, and the work required to put it in good order, together with the cleaning and removal of the debris therein, is very extensive.

The survey took approximately seven months to complete and was supervised by my Senior Engineering Assistant who, with the men specially employed for this purpose, made a very thorough and sound examination and report.

Much help was given by the National Coal Board in the loan of equipment and the recharging of miners' safety lamp batteries etc., and also by the Gloucestershire County Council in the loan of field telephone sets for use in crawling through the culverts.

As to action to be taken arising from the results of the survey, no decision has yet been reached, but consideration is being given to this matter by the Council in conjunction with the Gloucestershire County Council.

At Lydbrook complaints had been made from time to time in the past of flooding near the Jovial Colliers public house, and the Council requested that this comparatively short length of culvert should be examined in the same way as it had been done for Coleford.

It transpired on examination that much obstruction had already been removed in the way of old bed mattresses, wooden boxes and other similar matters, although it was also discovered that a large boulder had been dislodged from the side of the culvert and fallen into the invert. Men were sent in to the culvert with bars and tackle, and it was possible to move this boulder to one side leaving the invert of the culvert free and unimpeded. It is hoped that this, together with the various items removed as mentioned earlier, will obviate any further difficulty, but that yet remains to be seen.

3. Housing.

The Council's house building programme for 1959 was most comprehensive, comprising 32 single bedroom bungalows for Old Aged Persons and 35 dwelling houses of either two or three bedroom type.

Considerable progress was made in the setting up of design drawings, specifications and Bills of Quantity in the early part of 1959 for this programme, and tenders were obtained at an early date. Nevertheless, however, although contracts were let and work commenced, the acute brick shortage common to the whole country slowed down building operations to such an extent that, contrary to all expectations, at the close of the year very poor progress had been made in the actual construction of the dwellings.

The number of new dwellings completed by the Council during 1959 was 16, and the number of private dwellings erected was 30.

37 Improvement Grants were made during the year, comprising 18 Discretionary and 19 Standard Grants totalling £6,500, and in addition 61 loans were made comprising 15 loans for the improvement of existing houses and 46 loans for house purchase.

The Council have continued with their policy of installing new cooking appliances at Council houses, and during 1959 let contracts for the installation of a further 19 gas cookers and 44 electric cookers in the non-parlour type houses.

On the matter of modernisation of pre-war Council houses mentioned in the report for 1958, work has continued in the preparation of schemes but no actual works were carried out during the year.

Further work was commenced in the demolition of 10 hutted dwellings at Wynols Hill Camp, and this was well advanced at the close of the year.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Routine weekly collection has been maintained throughout the district during 1959, and no difficulty has been experienced.

So far as Statutory Bank Holidays and periods of annual leave of the drivers and crews are concerned, this difficulty was met by arranging for not more than one vehicle and crew to be off the road at any one time for annual holidays, the other two vehicles sharing the extra work between them and working overtime, whilst on Statutory Bank Holidays all three vehicles worked overtime in the latter part of the week to make up for the two or so days missed on each occasion.

Delivery was taken of the new refuse collection vehicle during the early part of the year, and the three vehicles now operated for this purpose by the Council are eminently suited for the type of district.

As in previous years, disposal of refuse is effected by controlled tipping on two separate sites, and although one complaint was received during the year this was immediately attended to, the portion of refuse tip being sealed off and covered with soil.

At the same time, routine treatment has been carried out for the prevention of nuisance from flies, vermin etc.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed:—

PARISH	1959	Council Houses		Total
		Pre-War	Post-War including 1959	
Coleford	12	166	172	338
English Bicknor ..	—	8	16	24
Staunton	—	—	11	11
Newland	—	48	10	58
Lydbrook	—	72	107	179
West Dean	4	302	407	709
<hr/>				
TOTAL	16	596	723	1,319
<hr/>				

The 16 houses completed and occupied during 1959 were for re-housing families under the Council's Slum Clearance programme, 10 of whom were re-housed from Hutments at Wynols Hill which have since been demolished.

In addition to the above dwellings, the Council own 11 hutments at Wynols Hill and 9 other dwellings all of which are occupied.

Private Houses.

30 private dwellings were completed during the year, making a total of 228 during the Post-War period.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

Water Supply.

87% of the dwellings in the District now have mains water laid on and another 2% are supplied by standpipe. The extensions of the mains being made will enable the District to be served more completely. The extension to Cannop and to the Speech House and Old Dean Hall, on which work was done during the year, will give a much needed supply.

Sewerage.

Coleford with Berry Hill and Broadwell still remain the only parts of the District that are sewered, but there are a number of small disposal plants serving Council House Estates. An investigation was made by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the proposed Lydbrook Scheme. Bream also badly needs to be sewered and in time, consideration should be given to the sewerage of Milkwall, Clearwell, Yorkley and Pillowell.

Swimming Pools

Bell's Grammar School.

This is 75 feet by 36 feet and is 3 feet deep for the first 25 feet and then slopes to 6 feet at the deep end. The capacity is 67,000 gallons. It is filled with mains water and refilled at intervals of a few weeks; no chlorination or filtration apparatus being provided. The water is chloraminated (hypochlorite and ammonia being added) and satisfactory bacteriological results are obtained from samples, great care being taken with treatment of the water.

Berry Hill Secondary Modern School.

This was built during the year. It is 60 feet by 30 feet; it is 3 feet 11 inches deep one end and at the other, 5 feet 9 inches one side and 4 feet 5 inches at the other side. At the 4 feet 5 inches side there is a shallow cell of 2 feet 3 inches deep appended. The content is said to be 40,000 gallons. Mains water is used and chlorination and filtration apparatus is being obtained.

Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw waters) taken on 21.12.59.

	Lydbrook Pumping Station				Redbrook Pumping Station			
CHEMICAL (parts per million)				
Total Dissolved Solids	326		400	
Loss on ignition	49		59	
Mineral Matter	277		341	
Total hardness	274		354	
(a) Permanent	104		120	
(b) Temporary	170		234	
Chlorine (as Chloride)	12		14	
Free Ammonia	—		—	
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.12		2.61	
Nitrite Nitrogen	—		—	
Metals	—		—	
Reaction pH	7.4		7.2	

